

Message Text

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UNCLAS CAIRO 5815

STATE PASS S. DILLON RIPLEY, SEC SMITHSONIAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN PROPOSAL FOR EGYPTIAN NATIONAL FOLKDANCE
TROUPE TO PARTICIPATE IN SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL OF
AMERICAN FOLKLIFE

REF: CAIRO 4886-C

1. IN PURSUANCE OF OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN REFTTEL, PAO
AND CAO MET WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE U/S MURSI SAAD AL-DIN
AUGUST 1 REGARDING SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION PROPOSAL THAT
EGYPTIAN NATIONAL FOLKDANCE TROUPE PARTICIPATE IN MUSEUM'S
FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE, WASH., D.C., IN SUMMER 1975.

2. SAAD AL-DIN STATED MINISTRY OF CULTURE DELIGHTED WITH
OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL. HE SAID FOLKDANCE
TROUPE BOOKED FOR SEVERAL OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES IN EUROPE
AND ARAB COUNTRIES IN NEXT FEW MONTHS BUT WOULD BE FREE
TO REHEARSE NEXT SPRING FOR MAJOR PERFORMANCE IN
WASHINGTON, D.C. NEXT SUMMER. SAAD AL-DIN STATED FULL
TROUPE (I.E. DANCERS, MUSICIANS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, ETC.)
COMPOSED OF 60-65 PERSONS AND HALF-TROUPE, GENERALLY
USED IN OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES, COMPOSED OF 30-35 PERSONS.
HE SUGGESTED SMITHSONIAN CHOOSE WHICH GROUP IT WISHES TO
SPONSOR.

3. IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, POST
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DESIRES ANSWERS TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PROGRAM:

1) WHAT ARE TENTATIVE DATES FOR NATIONAL FOLKDANCE TROUPE'S PERFORMANCES? HOW MANY DAYS WILL TROUPE SPEND IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

2) HOW MANY PERFORMANCES WILL TROUPE GIVE AND WHAT TIME WILL PERFORMANCES BE GIVEN?

3) WILL IT BE POSSIBLE FOR TROUPE TO PERFORM ELSEWHERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OR OTHER U.S. CITIES DURING VISIT UNDER SMITHSONIAN OR OTHER FOUNDATIONS' SPONSORSHIP? U/S MINCULTURE SAID AMBASSADOR ASHRAF GHORBAL PREPARED TO ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE TROUPE AT JFK CENTER.

4) CAN TROUPE MEET PRESIDENT NIXON? PRESIDENT NIXON WATCHED TROUPE PERFORM AT EGYPTIAN STATE DINNER IN CAIRO LAST JUNE AND SUGGESTED THEY PERFORM IN UNITED STATES.

5) WHAT IS NATURE OF TOUR PLANNED FOR GROUP? WILL IT BE AFTER FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES? WILL ALL MEMBERS OF TROUPE BE INCLUDED? HOW LONG WILL TOUR BE? WHAT PARTS OF THE U.S. WILL TOUR COVER?

6) MINCULTURE HAS MODEST BUDGET FOR OVERSEAS CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS. MINCULTURE WANTS ESTIMATE OF DOLLAR EXPENDITURES FOR TROUPE WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. PLEASE GIVE ESTIMATED PER DIEM PER PARTICIPANT AND ANY OTHER DOLLAR EXPENDITURES ENVISAGED. MINCULTURE CONSIDERING APPROACHING LOCAL AMERICAN FIRMS TO COVER DOLLAR COSTS. DO SMITHSONIAN OR DEPARTMENT HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SOURCES THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO COVER TROUPE'S U.S. EXPENDITURES? ASSUME SMITHSONIAN COVERING COSTS OF STAGING, PUBLICITY, PROGRAM, TICKETS, ETC.

7) WHAT COSTS WILL SMITHSONIAN BEAR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF TROUPE FROM EGYPT TO PREPARE TROUPE FOR PERFORMANCES IN U.S.? FOR EXAMPLE, CAN SMITHSONIAN SEND CHOREOGRAPHER OR ADVISOR TO WORK WITH TROUPE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFOREHAND TO ASSIST PRODUCING PROGRAM MOST ATTRACTIVE TO AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AUDIENCES? WILL SMITHSONIAN PAY SALARIES DURING DANCE TROUPE REHEARSAL PERIOD IN EGYPT? CAN SMITHSONIAN PAY FOR NEW COSTUMES, IF DEEMED NECESSARY TO MAKE FAVORABLE

IMPACT IN U.S.? ASSUME SMITHSONIAN WILL PAY ROUNDTRIP AIR SHIPMENT OF COSTUMES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, STAGE EQUIPMENT, ETC. AS WELL AS AIRFARE FOR TROUPE MEMBERS.

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